

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An access authentication system is provided for authenticating access for visitors To gain visiting access to a wireless local area network (W-LAN), the operator of which administers a visitor authentication, authorisation authorization and accounting (VAAA) server, a [[. A]] user requesting visiting such access to the W-LAN, is required to must have a valid cellular mobile account, a portable computing device with a browser and a valid W-LAN card from another operation that administers a home authentication, authorisation authorization and accounting (HAAA) server. The user, on requesting visiting access to the W-LAN, inputs, via the VAAA server, identity information that enables the HAAA to issue a personal identification number (PIN) which is encoded and forwarded, preferably by way of a short message services (SMS), to the user's mobile telephone. This encoded PIN is transferred to the browser to authenticate the requested visiting access to the W-LAN, and the costs associated with of such access are billed to the user's cellular mobile account. The [[, the]] requested access [[being]] is achieved via the user's browser. The user may employ the browser to convey the identity information[[,]] to the VAAA via the W-LAN, or via the mobile telephone, to the VAAA. Alternatively, the user may call the VAAA on the mobile telephone to provide said identity information in which case, the subject telephone call is preferably forwarded to the HAAA via a premium rate call unit.